

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 9 are in the application.

With respect to the Information Disclosure Statement dated October 16, 2003, the Examiner is respectfully advised that, with the exception of German reference 35 43 717 whose relevance is discussed in the present application, the remaining references were cited in a German Office Action. The German Examiner cited German reference DE 195 01 615 A1 for showing the features recited in the preamble of claim 1. The German Examiner allowed the claim because the reference did not show a locking strip having laterally projecting tabs, wherein the locking strip is fastened on an inner side of the hose clamp, and wherein the tabs engage in a positive-locking way in the gaps.

EP 0 887 582 82 and US Patent 5,622,391 were cited for also showing positive-engaging means and measures for securing the clamp for simplifying the assembly.

With respect to the objection to the drawings, submitted herewith is a replacement sheet of the drawing in which reference character "17" in Fig. 3 has been changed to "7".

With respect to the abstract of the disclosure, it is respectfully submitted that the abstract of record meets the requirements set forth by the Examiner in the Office Action.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, are respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that it is grammatically clear that if the word "that" is used as a relative pronoun, it refers back to the last noun which precedes that word "that".

Also, it is respectfully submitted that it is clear from the specification and the drawings that it is the hose that has the projections.

However, to be absolutely clear, claim 1 has been amended to recite "a connection of a hose clamp and a hose, wherein the hose is provided with projections".

Applicants have noted that the Examiner has indicated that claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

However, applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and all the claims depending therefrom are patentable over the art of record.

The reference to Chatterton shows a hose and clamp assembly in which the hose is clearly not provided with projections.

In addition, the reference to Chatterton also does not show "gaps" between the projections 32 in Fig. 3. Since only one projection 32 is provided on each side of the component 14, there can only be one gap between the projections 32.

Applicants also disagree with the Examiner's position that a side wall of the housing of the reference could be called a "locking strip". The side wall usually is an integral part of the housing, wherein this part simultaneously forms the housing bottom, or at least a portion thereof, on the radially inner bottom side of the housing and does not extend, as stated by the Examiner, across the housing bottom.

However, claim 1 has been amended to make it clear that the locking strip is fastened on an inner side of the hose clamp.

Moreover, applicants respectfully submit that the

interpretation of the dependent claims by the Examiner is incorrect because the Examiner continues to refer to the projections 32 of the separate component 42 of the reference instead of to the projections 4 claimed in the present application.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as claimed in claims 1 - 9 is patentable over the art of record because none of the references discloses or suggests a hose with projections arranged on opposed sides of a hose clamp and having gaps, wherein a locking strip having laterally projecting tabs is fastened on an inner side of the hose clamp, and wherein the laterally projecting tabs engage in the gaps in a positive-locking way.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with the application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1459, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 16, 2004

By: *Friedrich Kueffner*

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